(c) the decisions of Government thereon; and

(d) by when, these decisions would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Steering Group on Investment and Growth in Textile Industry has submitted an interim report, which relates to the terms of reference of the Group regarding the evolution of a growth oriented fiscal policy for integrated development of the textile industry covering all its segments. The recommendations/suggestions of the Steering Group have been taken into consideration in making proposals for consideration of the Ministry of Finance for the budget of 2002-2003.

Export of readymade garments

742. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total export of readymade garments during this financial year both in value and quantity;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this sector is facing problems due to negligible export incentives;

(c) the steps being taken to improve the situation and encourage the exporters by giving better benefits on exports; and

(d) by when this will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) As per latest available DGCI&S data, the exports of readymade garments during the period April-October 2001-2002 amounted to US$ 2764.5 million. The DGCI&S data regarding readymade garment exports in quantity terms for the above period is not available.

(b) to (d) Various facilities such as duty drawback, concessional rate of duty for import of machineries under EPCG Scheme, allowing import of restricted items under the Advance Licence Scheme of the Export-Import Policy, duty free import of essential items of trimmings & embellishments like fastners, polywadding, labels, tags, buttons, hangers, stickers, polybags and lining and interlining materials, full / partial exemption under 80 HHC of Income Tax have been allowed.

Government have also been taking several steps from time to time to strengthen and promote textile exports including readymade garment. Some of the important initiatives are:—

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector.

(ii) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the R.E. 2001-02 for creating clusters of excellence, *i.e.* apparel parks for production and export of garments. Besides, a provision of Rs. 10 crores has also been made in R.E. 2001-02 for scheme for improvement of infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.

(iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade. Inter Ministerial Committee to resolve the issues pertaining to assistance under TUFS has been constitued.

(iv) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of acelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%.

(v) Technology Mission for Cotton has been launched for initiating focussed steps for boosting production, productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products.

(vi) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vii) The import of a large number of garment machinery has been allowed under concessional custom duty of 5%.

(viii) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought to 5%.

(ix) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through

automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.

(x) To prepare and sensitise our textile and garment industry to conform to the ecological requirements of improving countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

(xi) The National Textile Policy—2000 (NTxP-2000) has been announced to provide the policy direction for orderly and sustained development and growth of the textile industry in a harmonious way and to give a thrust to textile exports.

(xii) DEPB rates for certain textile products have been rationalised.

(xiii) A programme has been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

(xiv) The following relaxations under the Quota Policy have been recently announced.

— Large additional quantities are being opened for most of the categories under the FCFS / RGE systems of the Quota Policies with a view to providing quotas to the garment and textile exporters on a continuos basis.

— In order to reduce transaction costs and time of the exporters, EMD/BG amounts were reduced during 2001 for certain categories and the date for utilising quotas were extended. Further, the L/C condition under the FCFS system was also waived for all such categories which had quantities left over for the rest of the year.

Fall in silk exports

743. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Indian Silk Exports are expected to fall short of the $430 million target in 2001-2002 fiscal year; and

(b) if so, the details of the reasons for such a fall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Against the target of US $ 430 million of silk goods exports for the year 2001-2002, silk goods amounting to